

## CATEX CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES & SENSITIVE RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) DETERMINATION FOR A DENALI COMMISSION PROJECT

Program Partner Name	Project Name		
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative	Holy Cross Bulk Fuel Upgrades		
Location	Project #	Subproject #	
Holy Cross, Alaska	W.O. # 9723512	N/A	
Identify Categorical Exclusion			
The proposed project is identified in the Denali Commission list of categorical exclusions provided in 45 CFR Appendix A to Part 900.			
The appropriate paragraph number(s) is/are <b>B3 (b)</b>			
Project Description (2.3 contoness maximum)			

Proposed bulk fuel upgrades include a 194,000 gallon co-located tank farm to supply local power generation and local fuel operations that include retail sales and fleet dispensing. Additionally, new dual product barge headers and two 3,000 LF fill pipelines will be constructed to serve the new tank farm. The combined area of all proposed improvements is approximately 1 acre. Please see attached site plans. Construction is anticipated for summer 2018.

#### Instructions

The information you provide below will assist the Denali Commission in making its determination as to whether a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) is appropriate or further environmental analysis is required for the proposed project. Please place a checkmark in the blank next to the numbered items indicating your response on that issue. A checkmark in the "Yes" block does not automatically preclude the development of the proposed project. It simply means further assessment is needed. Should you have any remarks that may indicate the need to prepare an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), attach a brief explanation of the circumstances for further evaluation. Adverse affects to environmentally sensitive resources must be resolved through another environmental process, e.g., coordination or consultation under the Coastal Zone Management Act or National Historic Preservation Act, before being categorically excluded. Attachments are allowed and encouraged.

			ination		
Extraordinary Circumstances				Basis for determination: See attached comments	
			No		
1.	Public Health, Safety or Environment Will the proposed project have a reasonably likelihood of significant impacts on public health, public safety, or the environment?			The project will improve the reliability and safety of fuel storage and dispensing facilities in the community. As a result, environmental and public health will be better protected.	
2.	Controversy on Environmental Grounds Will the proposed project have effects on the environment that are likely to be highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?		$\boxtimes$	The proposed project site is located adjacent to the existing fuel facilities and sewage lagoon on City owned property. As such, the area has been historically utilized for fuel related infrastructure and is not considered controversial.	
3.	Uncertain, Unique or Unknown Risks Will the proposed project have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain, involve unique or unknown risks, or are scientifically controversial?		$\boxtimes$	The project will benefit all of the population by decreasing the risk of general public exposure to hazards related to fuel storage and dispensing.	

4.	Precedent for Future Action Will the proposed action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		The proposed action replaces aged, non-code compliant fuel storage and dispensing equipment. These actions will significantly reduce current environmental threats.
5.	Cumulative Impacts Will the proposed project relate to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		The project replaces, multiple, dispersed, fuel facilities with new co-located facilities reducing potential cumulative environmental effects.
6.	Scope and Size  Will the proposed project have a greater size and scope than is normal for the category of action?		Generally, the size and scope of this type of facility is based on the combined effects of anticipated capital improvements and the growth rate of the community's population. As such, the proposed size and scope of this project is normal In relation to other Alaska communities of similar size and growth characteristics. The proposed facilities meet the requirements for Categorical Exclusions of Appendix A to Part 900 Section B3(b).

7.	Environmental Conditions  Will the proposed project have the potential to degrade already existing poor environmental conditions or to initiate a degrading influence, activity or effect in areas not already significantly modified from their natural condition?			While any fuel storage facility presents some inherent risk, the proposed improvements are far less likely to impact the environment than the existing tank facilities being replaced. The proposed site has already been significantly modified form its natural condition and the proposed improvements are not expected to cause any additional environmental harm to the site.
8.	Environmental Justice Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?  Ref: Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations			The proposed project will not adversely affect low income or minority populations.
9.	Indian Sacred Sites Will the proposed project limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites? (EO 13007)  "Indian tribe" means an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Public Law No. 103-454, 108 Stat. 4791, and "Indian" refers to a member of such an Indian tribe. (EO 13007)  Ref: Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites			No, the Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) was reviewed on 1/30/18. The AHRS shows all catalogued cultural resources areas are outside the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects (APE).
	Sensitive Resources	Impa Poter		Basis for determination: See attached comments
		Yes	No	
10.	Section 106 Historic Properties  Will the proposed project adversely affect properties in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places?  Ref: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), as amended. (See 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties).		$\boxtimes$	The State Historic Preservation Office has issued a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed project dated 1/30/18.
11.	Endangered Species  Will the proposed project adversely affect species listed, or proposed to be listed on the Endangered or Threatened Species List, or the specific critical habitat?  Ref: Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended. (See 50 CFR part 402).			The US Fish and Wildlife Service's IPaC Trust Resource Report was reviewed using the IPaC website mapper. Based on the review, there are no endangered species within the limits of the project.
12.	Historic or Cultural Resources Will the proposed action adversely impact the historic and cultural environment of the Nation?		$\boxtimes$	There are no known archaeological or prehistoric sites at the proposed project location. The current

	Executive Order 11593, Protection and enhancement of the al environment.		proposed project is not anticipated any adverse impacts to known cultural resources. The State Historic Preservation Office has issued a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed project.
Will th	Recreation or Refuge Lands ne proposed project have significant adverse direct or indirect s on National or State Park, Recreation or Refuge lands?		The proposed project is not located within or adjacent to any National or State Parks, recreation lands, or refuges.
Will th	ness Areas e proposed project adversely impact a wilderness area?	$\boxtimes$	The proposed project is not located within and will not impact any wilderness areas.
	/ilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), as amended.		This project is not a water
Is the	proposed project a "Water Resources Project" that will impact I, scenic or recreational river area and create conditions sistent with the character of the river?		resources project and will not impact wild, scenic, or recreational river areas.
Ref: \ amend	Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.), as ded.		
Will the	al Natural Landmarks e proposed project impact a National Natural Landmark? Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as ded.		Based on a review of the National Park Service National Natural Landmarks Website, the proposed project will not impact a National Natural Landmark.
If the resour	proposed action would not have adverse effects on this ce, it may be considered that there is no Impact Potential.  afe Drinking Water Act of 1974, (42 U.S.C. 201, 300 et seq.,	$\boxtimes$	According to the EPA website there are no sole source aquifers in Alaska.
and 21	U.S.C. 349), as amended. (See 40 CFR part 149).		The proposed project will not
Will th	e proposed project convert significant agricultural lands to pricultural uses?		convert any agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses.
	armlands Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et as amended. (See 7 CFR part 658).		
constru	ds e proposed project adversely affect wetlands or will there be uction in wetlands, except in conformance with a U.S. Corps ineers Section 404 Permit?	$\boxtimes$	According to the National Wet Lands Inventory, the proposed sites are not located on wetland areas.
Ref: Ex	xecutive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands		
impact	lains e proposed project involve construction in a floodplain or floodplain development?  eccutive Order 11988, Floodplain Management		Based on the national FEMA Flood Map Service Center, the project area has not been mapped.
	al Monuments		This project is not within
	pposed project impact a National Monument?	$\boxtimes$	proximity of any National

Possible sources of the above documents include as appropriate, GSA, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the property owner, military base environmental office, local governmental organizations, local public library, and City/County planning office.

- 2. <u>PERSONAL CONTACT</u> Personal contacts are useful when the individual contacted is an accepted authority on the subject(s), and the interview is documented. Supporting documentation should include the name, organization, and title of the person contacted and the date of the conversation. Examples include EPA officials, EPA hotlines, officials from state or local planning offices and environmental offices, or an environmental officer of an agency.
- 3. <u>SITE VISIT</u> A site visit does not usually involve any testing or measurements. A site visit is an important method for initial screening of the issues, but for some of the categories it may be inadequate for final evaluation, Supporting documentation should include date of the site visit, by whom, and the supporting observation.

<u>Pollution Prevention</u>. The agency must include pollution prevention considerations in the siting, design, construction, renovation, and operation of the project or facility.

The questionnaire items on sedimentation and erosion control measures and storm water control plan are also pollution prevention related.

			AND AND DESCRIPTION OF			No. 12 and the state of the sta		
					Monuments.			
	Significant or Critical Areas nosed project impact an ecologically sign	nificant or		×	The proposed site is not near any known ecologically sensitive or critical areas.			
23. Other Known Is an environn	Reasons nental assessment required for other known	reasons?		×	No.			
Additional Comments								
Note:	Note! Tank Farm alveuge is 20,000 SF < 2 acre impact							
F	peline imput is	18,000	120		BG3	S(E)		
	Note: Tank Farm acreage is 20,000 SF < 2 acre impact Pipeline impact is 10,000 SF B(3)(E)  All 25 2/16/18 CATEX							
Based upon the ca my knowledge, that	Based upon the categorical exclusion identified above, this completed checklist and attachments, I certify to the best of my knowledge, that the information provided above is complete and correct, and that:							
A categorical exclus	A categorical exclusion determination is appropriate for this project:  Yes:   No:							
Further environmental analysis is required:				Yes:	No: 🖾			
	PREPARED BY							
Date	Typed or Printed Name and Title	Signature		2				
2/2/2017 Nicholas Phelps, EIT Muhry 3								
DENALI COMMISSION APPROVING OFFICIAL								
Date	Typed or Printed Name and Title	Signature			/			
2/6/18	Jee Nemeyer tederal		pl					
Environmental Inforr Supplemental Instru	nation and Documentation			10				

#### Basis for Determination and Documentation

The basis for determination and documentation information must be traceable and establish the factual data to support the response to each question. Types of information to be included in this column are outlined below.

1. PRINTED MATERIALS These are useful sources of detailed information materials such as comprehensive land use plans, zoning maps, city master plans, environmental baseline surveys, environmental assessments, environmental impact statements and studies. Information must be current and must represent accepted methodologies, i.e., not so old that changing conditions make them irrelevant. Citations for the material should include enough information so that an outside reviewer can locate the specific reference, e.g., author, document title, publication date, and page number.

Examples include the Record of Decision, Finding of Suitability to Transfer, Finding of Suitability to Lease, General Services Administration (GSA) Property Suitability Determination Form, Federal Property Information Checklist, Environmental Baseline Surveys, Preliminary Assessment Reports, Environmental Assessments, draft or final Environmental Impact Statements, and City/County master plan or zoning map.

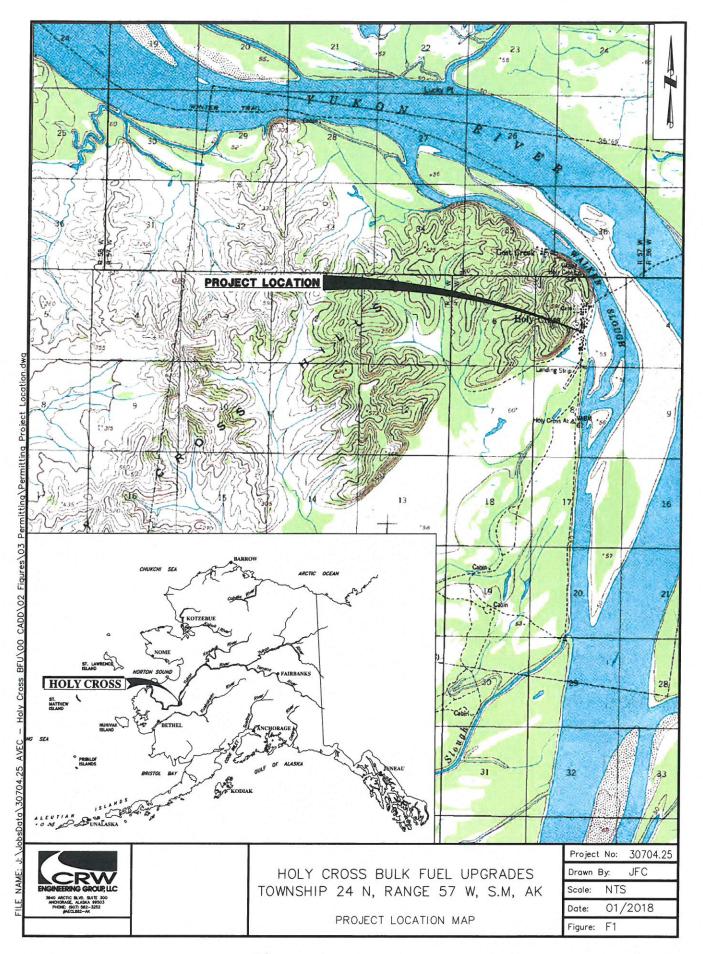


Figure 1



This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

January 31, 2018

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

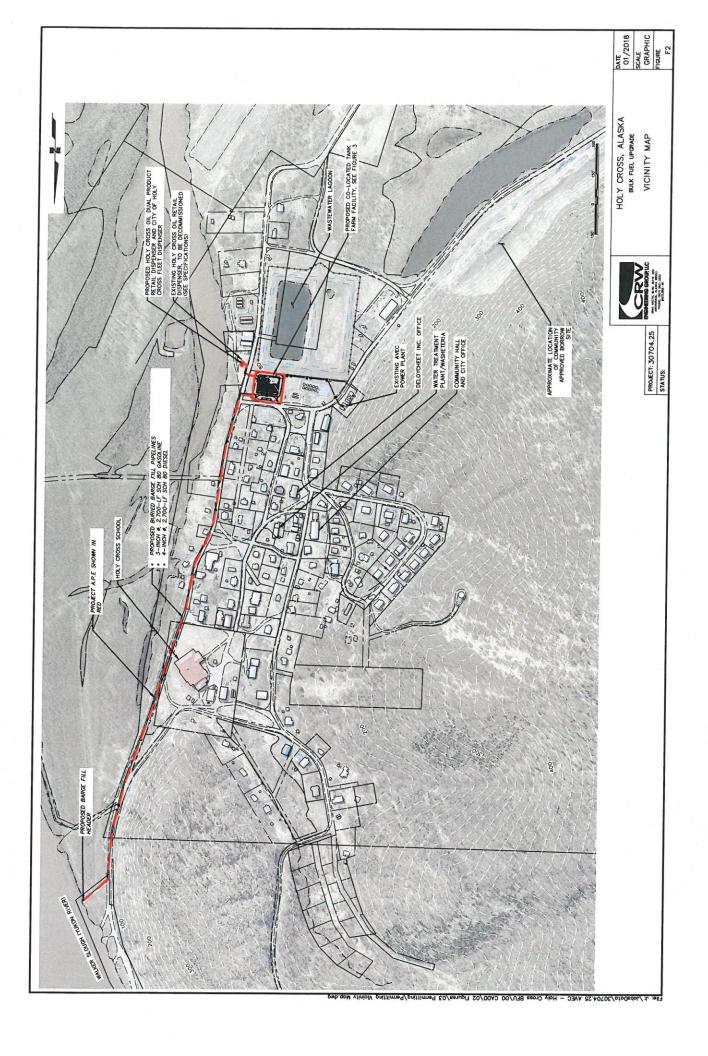
Lake

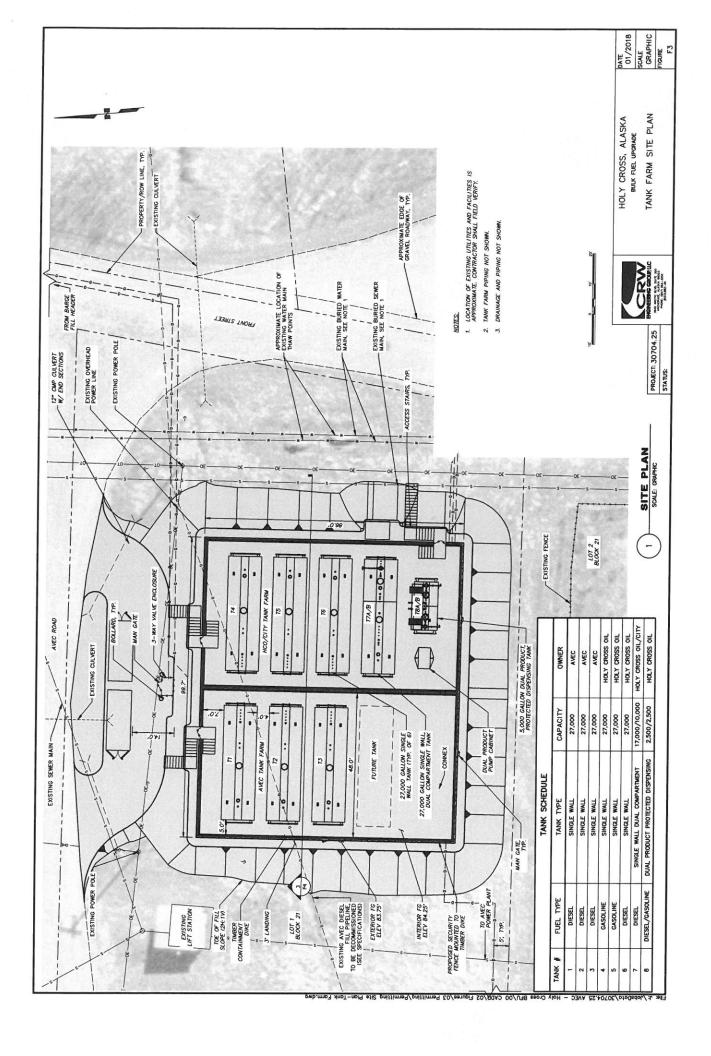
Freshwater Pond

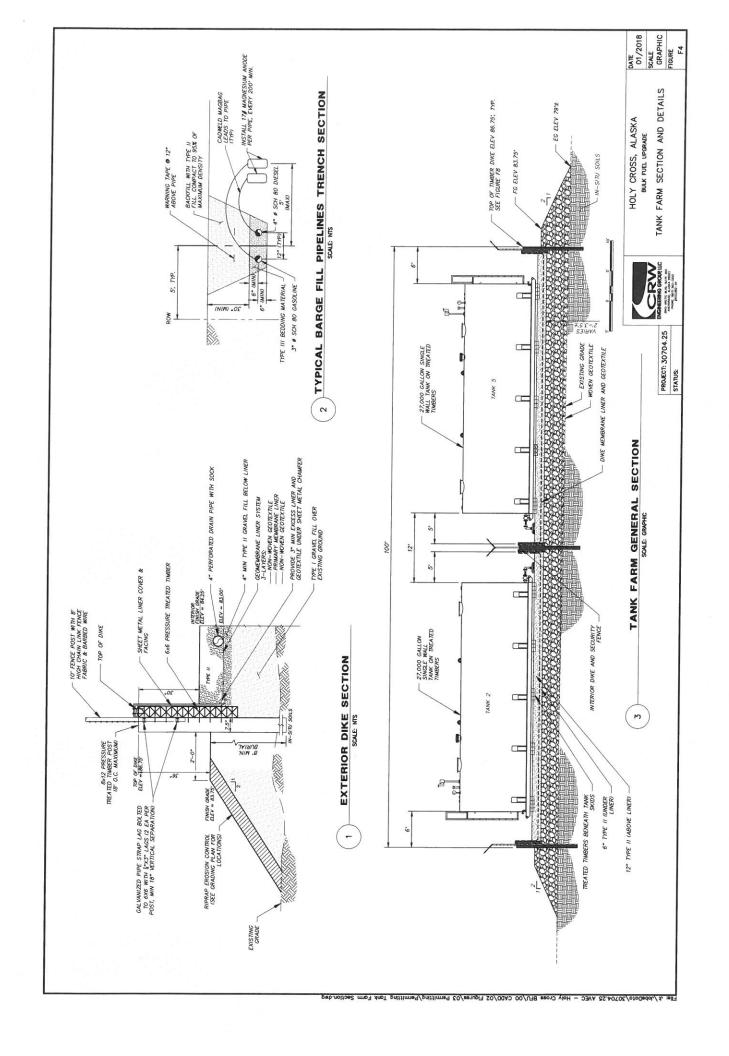
Other

Riverine

National Wetlands Inventory (NW) This page was produced by the NW mapper











P.O. Box 111405 Anchorage, Alaska 99511-1405 Ph. (907) 349-0100, Fax (907) 349-8001

January 25, 2018

Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer Alaska Office of History and Archaeology Alaska Department of Natural Resources 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501-3565 No Historic Properties Affected
Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: \ /5 0/8 File No.: 3130-18 2015
Please review: 36 CFR 800.13 / A.S. 41.35.070(d)

Subject:

Holy Cross Bulk Fuel Upgrade Project

Request Concurrence of Finding of No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms. Bittner:

CRW Engineering Group, LLC is working with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), in partnership with the Denali Commission (DC), which is cooperating with the City of Holy Cross, and Holy Cross Oil, Inc.to upgrade the community's bulk fuel system in Holy Cross, Alaska. The project is located within Section 05, Township 024 North, Range 57 West, Seward Meridian. Attached are Figures 1-4, which include a vicinity map showing the project area, an overall site development plan showing the Area of Potential Effect (APE) in red, an enlarged tank farm plan and typical sections of the pipeline and fill pad/dike. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, AVEC requests on behalf of the Denali Commission concurrence with the finding that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

The Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC) proposes to construct bulk fuel storage and handling facilities, which will include a bulk fuel co-located tank farm, installation of 3000' of barge fuel pipeline and fuel handling improvements for AVEC, the City of Holy Cross, and Holy Cross Oil, Inc. The tank farm will be constructed on a fill pad on previously developed land adjacent to the sewage lagoon. Fill pipelines will be installed within the existing pipeline alignment. Approximately 5,860 cubic yards of material from an existing local borrow source will be placed within an area of approximately 1.02-acres.

The Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) was reviewed on 1/22/18. The AHRS shows there are cultural sites within the Holy Cross area including XHC 4, the town of Holy Cross and XHC 106, historic house depression and trash scatter.

However, XHC 106 is listed based on a field survey done in 1994, Doc Repo #4536: (07/01/1994) SJS/Jensen, A.M., Parmelee, L.F. An Archaeological Field Survey In Connection With Proposed Construction in the City of Holy Cross, Final Report and the site description in AHRS does not match the point's location. It refers to a site location further south and east, outside the project APE. It is marked in the 1994 report as house service location #4 on page 10 Pedestrian Survey section and on page 2 Figure 1. That section describes "a similar house was reported to have been located across the road, on the eastern edge of the proposed lagoon expansion. It is currently covered by about 5 feet of gravel..." The 2005 AHRS card notes that it was probably destroyed by road construction. This site under 5 feet of gravel matches the Lat: 62.1966339, Long: -159.76938919 for XHC-106. McKenzie Johnson (email 1/25/18) says "After review of the report it seems apparent that XHC-106 is not accurately located, based on the photograph provided and written description it should be more along the lines of 62.195075, -159.769336 (approximation) on the E side of the road at the SE side of the Sewage Lagoon." Therefore, I believe XHC 106 is outside the project APE. No AHRS number has been assigned to the site under 5' of gravel and there is no further mention of it in the literature.



P.O. Box 111405 Anchorage, Alaska 99511-1405 Ph. (907) 349-0100, Fax (907) 349-8001

All other cataloged cultural resource areas are outside the Area of Potential Affect (APE).

There are no known archaeological or prehistoric sites within the proposed project location. AVEC requests concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

Please notify me as soon as possible if you anticipate any concerns with the proposed project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (907) 349-0100, or fax your comments to (907) 349-8001.

Sincerely,

Gray Stassel Engineering, Inc.

Alison Sterley

Cultural Resource Specialist

cc: Tom Wolf, Denali Commission, <a href="mailto:twolf@denali.gov">twolf@denali.gov</a>
Forrest Button, AVEC, <a href="mailto:fbutton@avec.org">fbutton@avec.org</a>
Karl Hulse, CRW Engineering, <a href="mailto:khulse@crweng.com">khulse@crweng.com</a>

Attachments - as noted



# United States Department of the Interior

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Fairbanks Fish And Wildlife Field Office 101 12th Avenue Room 110

Fairbanks, AK 99701-6237 Phone: (907) 456-0203 Fax: (907) 456-0208



January 30, 2018

In Reply Refer To:

Consultation Code: 07CAFB00-2018-SLI-0057

Event Code: 07CAFB00-2018-E-00174 Project Name: Holy Cross BFU Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

## To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm; http://www.towerkill.com; and http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

#### Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Fairbanks Fish And Wildlife Field Office 101 12th Avenue Room 110 Fairbanks, AK 99701-6237 (907) 456-0203

## **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 07CAFB00-2018-SLI-0057

Event Code:

07CAFB00-2018-E-00174

Project Name:

Holy Cross BFU Project

Project Type:

\*\* OTHER \*\*

Project Description: Proposed Bulk Fuel project storage facility includes a 194,000 gallon colocated tank farm to supply local power generation and local fuel operations including retail sales and fleet dispensing. Tanks include seven 27,000 gallon horizontal tanks within an elevated timber containment

dike.

Additionally, a 3,000 LF buried fill diesel and gasoline pipelines, and barge header, will serve the new tank farm. The combined area of all proposed improvements is approximately .6 acres. Construction is anticipated for summer 2018.

## **Project Location:**

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <a href="https://">https://</a> www.google.com/maps/place/62.20014629023429N159.76786697013503W



Counties: Yukon-Koyukuk, AK

## **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 0 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

#### **Critical habitats**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.